

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 067417  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02  
SSM-05 SIG-03 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05  
SP-02 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 L-03 MCT-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
HA-05 /113 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----001371 160503Z /15

O 160211Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 067417

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
JCS  
DOD  
CIA  
USIA  
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 067417

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 15

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 15, 1978.  
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. THE SECRETARY AT THE WHITE HOUSE, I'M TOLD, HAD SOME  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 067417

THINGS TO SAY THIS MORNING ABOUT THE ISRAELI RAID AND  
WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS INFORMED, AND I WONDER IF YOU  
COULD CLARIFY EXACTLY WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS INFORMED.  
AS I GET IT, MR. VANCE SAID JUST BEFORE THE RAID, AND I  
HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD JUST AFTER THE RAID.

A. SINCE I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT TIME THAT THE RAID BEGAN,  
I'M NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT. WE WERE GIVEN A MESSAGE  
LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING, INFORMING US  
OF THE FACT OF THE RAID. IT WAS NOT CONSULTATIVE; IT WAS  
INFORMATIONAL.

Q. DO YOU KNOW, THOUGH, IF IT WAS A FACT THAT IT HAD  
OCCURRED ALREADY?

A. AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME IT BEGAN, BUT IT WAS

CLOSE UPON THE FACT OF THE RAID. I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY  
THE MOMENT AT WHICH THE TROOPS WENT IN, OUR TIME.

Q. FIVE O'CLOCK OUR TIME.

A. WELL, IT WAS SHORTLY, AS I RECALL, THEREAFTER.

Q. SO THERE WAS NO ADVANCE CONSULTATION CERTAINLY, IN ANY FORM?

A. NO. THERE WAS NOT.

Q. DID THE INFORMATION INCLUDE SPELLING OUT THE AIMS OF THE RAID, THE OBJECTIVES?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO GREAT DETAIL ON THE MESSAGE WHICH WAS RELAYED. HOWEVER, I WILL JUST SIMPLY SAY THAT IT DID INDICATE THAT THE RAID WAS UNDER WAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 067417

Q. APART FROM THAT MESSAGE, HAS ISRAEL INFORMED THE UNITED STATES OF WHAT ITS OBJECTIVES ARE?

A. I WOULD NOTE WHAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAS SAID PUBLICLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT SOME LENGTH TODAY, AND WOULD SAY THAT THAT PRETTY ACCURATELY REPRESENTS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RAID.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THOSE OBJECTIVES? IN OTHER WORDS, THE OBJECTIVES SEEM TO BE TO HAVE A CORDON SANITAIRE AND INDEFINITE PRESENCE. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE INCURSION INTO LEBANESE TERRITORY, WHAT IT ALL MEANS?

A. LET ME SAY SEVERAL THINGS HERE: FIRST, TO RECALL WHAT I SAID ON MONDAY, THE TERRORIST ACT AGAINST ISRAEL ON SATURDAY PRESENTED ISRAEL WITH A PAINFUL AND SERIOUS DILEMMA. IT DOES HAVE LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS TO PROTECT, AND AT THE SAME TIME NO ONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES IN THAT AREA OF THE WORLD- I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS, NOR WITH OTHER PARTIES IN THE REGION. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO TOO FAR BEYOND THAT GENERAL STATEMENT INsofar AS PASSING JUDGMENTS ON THE EVENTS UNDERWAY IN LEBANON.

LET ME JUST SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THAT

THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN MILITARY UNITS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAVE POSED A THREAT TO ISRAELI SECURITY. THESE UNITS HAVE NOT ONLY DECLARED OPEN HOSTILITY TO  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 067417

ISRAEL, BUT HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THAT COUNTRY, THE MOST RECENT BEING THE BRUTAL ACT OF LAST SATURDAY.

INSOFAR AS THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE EXACT PURPOSE, INTENT, OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU OF THE ISRAELI RAID MAY BE, I WOULD NOTE FOR YOU THAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL EITHER TO HOLD OR TO REMAIN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THAT IS A STATEMENT WHICH WE WELCOME.

Q. WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK THE RAID WILL HAVE ON THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK AN INDEFINITE ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WILL HAVE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. IT IS PREMATURE AT THIS POINT TO TRY TO DRAW JUDGMENTS OR TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT EVENTS WHICH ARE STILL UNFOLDING. ALL THAT I CAN SAY IS THAT BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, WE ARE URGING THAT THE VIOLENCE NOT BE ALLOWED TO UNDERMINE THE PEACE PROCESS, A PEACE PROCESS WHICH IN THE END IS THE ONLY WAY TO DO AWAY WITH THE ENDLESS VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. IN YOUR URGINGS, ARE YOU ABLE TO USE AS ANY KIND OF LEVERAGE THE FACT THAT AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING USED PRESUMABLY WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC PERMISSION FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. LET ME DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF ARMS USE GENERALLY, BUT NOTING AT THE BEGINNING THAT THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX LEGAL QUESTION; IT IS A COMPLEX LEGAL QUESTION WHICH HAS TO BE STUDIED IN THE FACE OF RAPIDLY-CHANGING EVENTS, OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THEMSELVES WILL HAVE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 067417

BE STUDIED FOR AN ANSWER. AND I, FOR ONE, AM NOT READY TO GO INTO THE QUESTION AT THIS BRIEFING, AT THIS TIME, OF BASIC LEGALITY. LET ME NOTE THAT IN THE MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF JULY 23, 1952, THE PERTINENT SECTION SAYS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL ASSURES THE UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, OR SERVICES

AS MAY BE ACQUIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE REQUIRED FOR, AND WILL BE USED SOLELY TO MAINTAIN ITS INTERNAL SECURITY, ITS LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENSE, OR TO PERMIT IT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE AREA OF WHICH IT IS A PART, OR IN THE UNITED NATIONS COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND MEASURES, AND IT WILL NOT UNDERTAKE ANY ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ANY OTHER STATE."

THAT'S THE END OF THAT PARTICULAR PROVISION.

IN THE AFTERMATH, I WOULD REPEAT, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TERRORIST BUS ATTACK, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT ITS STRIKE INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON IS AN EXERCISE OF LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENSE. I, HOWEVER, WILL NOTE AGAIN THAT WE ARE IN NO POSITION AT THIS TIME TO GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF DETAILED ANALYSIS OF ANY OF THE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS.

Q. CAN YOU RESPOND TO THE LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER? DID THE PRESIDENT RESPOND TO THE LETTER?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF A RESPONSE, AND I THINK THAT THAT IS REALLY ONE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 067417

Q. DO YOU THINK THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT COME HERE NEXT WEEK?

A. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR A CHANGE IN THAT SCHEDULE.

Q. AND COULD YOU LIST FOR US WHAT COUNTRIES HAVE YOU CONTACTED?

A. I CANNOT LIST THEM FOR YOU. I CAN SIMPLY TELL YOU THAT BESIDES ISRAEL, IN THIS GENERAL RANGE OF DISCUSSION NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN HAVING BEFORE AND AFTER THE ATTACK, WE HAVE TALKED TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AND HAVE PLANS TO TALK TO OTHERS OBVIOUSLY.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO BE CALLED TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER?

A. GIVEN THE ROLE IN ANY CASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND PEACEKEEPING IN THIS AREA, THERE IS AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN THE U.N. IN THIS QUESTION. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ABOUT THE SITUATION.

BUT LET ME SAY THIS: AGAIN I AM IN NO POSITION IN TIME OR IN FACT TO SPECULATE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE

KIND OF U.N. ACTION OR ANOTHER OR, IN FACT, ANY INITIATIVES. WE OURSELVES -- THAT IS TO SAY THE UNITED STATES -- ARE NOT PROPOSING ANY INITIATIVE AT THIS POINT. WE ARE CONTINUING OBVIOUSLY TO WATCH THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY.

Q. WOULD THE SECRETARY BE IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE "WASHINGTON POST" EDITORIAL STAND THIS MORNING THAT SAID: "WHEN ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BEGIN PROMISED TO CUT OFF THE ARM OF EVIL THAT THREATENS HIS PEOPLE HE IS MERELY DEFINING IN OUR VIEW THE ONLY REALISTIC UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 067417

RESPONSE AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL. NO THOUGHTFUL ONLOOKER CAN BE INDIFFERENT TO THAT COUNTRY'S ANGER AND ANXIETY AND GRIEF?"

A. BASICALLY THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ARE AS I HAVE OUTLINED THEM HERE AND I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO THAT EDITORIAL. HE REALLY HASN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO THINK ABOUT EDITORIAL COMMENTS. HE HAS MOSTLY BEEN TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THIS.

Q. IN QUOTING TO US FROM THE MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT YOU SEEM TO BE SUGGESTING THAT THIS IS AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE A MATTER OF TIMING; THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO LOOK UPON THE ISRAELI ACTION NOW AS BEING LEGITIMATE DEFENSE BUT AT SOME TIME IN THE INDEFINITE FUTURE MIGHT CHANGE ITS VIEW.

WOULD THAT BE AN ACCURATE READING?

A. I WOULD HESITATE AND, IN FACT, WOULD WARN AGAINST TRYING TO DRAW ANY MORE OF A CONCLUSION FROM WHAT I HAVE SAID THAN WHAT I HAVE SAID. THIS IS A COMPLEX LEGAL QUESTION WHICH I AM IN NO POSITION AT THIS POINT TO HINT ABOUT, TO TRY TO GIVE FUTURE GUIDANCE ON, OR TO DEAL WITH SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DURATION, EXTENSION, OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITY NOW GOING ON. I AM JUST IN NO POSITION TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. COULD YOU THEN ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THE QUESTION OF DURATION. DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT THIS POINT HAVE ANY COMMENT THAT IT WANTS TO MAKE?

YOU KIND OF FINESSES A QUESTION THAT CAME OVER THERE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 067417

BEFORE ABOUT WEIZMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT THIS WOULD BE OF INDEFINITE DURATION.

DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE ON THE SUGGESTION THAT THIS WILL BE AN OPERATION OF INDEFINITE DURATION?

A. NO. I DO NOT BECAUSE IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US PRECISELY WHAT THE SITUATION IS. WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH IT. WE HAVE NOTED WHAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE OPERATION NOW UNDERWAY. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE CONTENTS OF THE PARTICULAR CONTACTS WE HAVE HAD AT THIS TIME.

Q. JUST A CLARIFICATION ON YOUR POINT ON ARMS.

IT SEEMS TO ME FROM THE WAY YOU HAVE COMMENTED ON THE AFFAIR THAT ONE MUST DRAW THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT SO FAR THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT WARNED ISRAEL NOT TO USE THOSE ARMS OR PROTESTED AGAINST THE USE OF THEM; THAT YOU ARE LEAVING THE QUESTION IN SUSPENSE FOR THE TIME BEING AND SO THERE IS NO NEED TO DO ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF A PROTEST TO ISRAEL. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FOR YOU ON WHAT I HAVE SAID BECAUSE I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO WHAT WE HAVE, IN FACT, SAID IN ANY WAY TO ISRAEL.

WHAT I HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, ON THE ARMS QUESTION I WOULD WANT TO STRESS: THAT THIS IS NOW 12:20, WHICH IS TO SAY SOME -- IN ANY CASE, IT IS NOT YET TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER SOMETHING HAS OCCURRED. I AM NOT READY TO GIVE MUCH OF AN INSTANT ANALYSIS OF WHAT OUR LEGAL OR OTHER POSITION WOULD BE. I HAVE TO STAND ON THE WORDS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 067417

THAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU SO FAR.

Q. I AM NOT ASKING FOR AN ANALYSIS. I AM ASKING FOR A QUESTION OF FACT; WHETHER WE HAVE OR HAVE NOT PROTESTED THIS THING AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST?

A. YES, AND WHAT I AM SIMPLY SAYING IS THAT AT THIS

POINT I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO ANYTHING THAT WE HAVE SAID DIPLOMATICALLY. THAT IS NEITHER A CONFIRMATION OR A DENIAL OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANYTHING. IT IS SIMPLY A STATEMENT OF MY INABILITY TO GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF A LEAD ON THAT QUESTION.

Q. I WANT TO PURSUE TED'S POINT A LITTLE BIT FURTHER

BECAUSE I CAN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY ABOUT THE QUESTION OF THE DURATION OF THIS ATTACK. YOU SAID IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT THE SITUATION IS.

LET ME ASK THE QUESTION IN THIS WAY: HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEEN GIVEN ANY INDICATION BY THE ISRAELIS THAT THIS IS AN ATTACK OF A LIMITED DURATION OR DO WE SIMPLY NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE?

A. I WOULD AGAIN SAY WHAT I SAID BEFORE; THAT I HAVE NOTED AND WE HAVE ALL NOTED WHAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THIS OPERATION WAS, WHAT HE HAS SAID PUBLICLY. WE UNDERSTAND WHAT HIS WORDS HAVE SAID AND BEYOND THAT I AM SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO GO MUCH FURTHER. I MEAN HE HAS STATED THE ISRAELI POSITION AS TO WHAT THEY ARE DOING THERE.

Q. HAS THE SOVIET UNION ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 067417

URGE ISRAEL TO END THE INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OR HAS THE SOVIET UNION CONTACTED THE UNITED STATES AT ALL?

A. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THE ANSWER IS NO.

Q. UP TILL NOW YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE LAND OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NOW EYE WITNESS REPORTS THAT ISRAELI AIR RAIDS HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON REFUGEE CAMPS IN BEIRUT AS WELL AS OTHER PLACES.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THOSE WITH REGARD TO YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT INNOCENT LIVES?

A. FIRST, OF COURSE, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SITUATION REPORTS IN HERE DAILY; NOR IN FACT CAN I GIVE YOU ONES NOW, EVEN TODAY.

I AM AWARE OF A NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT ARE COMING OUT IN THE PRESS. I WOULD SAY THAT THIS IS FAIRLY STANDARD IN A VERY FAST MOVING MILITARY SITUATION. I AM IN NO POSITION AT THIS POINT TO CONFIRM SOME OF THOSE REPORTS.



I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO SPECIFICS ON THE GROUND. THE BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION I KNOW IS BEING HELD IN ISRAEL. I ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER MILITARY BRIEFINGS GIVEN. I DO NOT HAVE ANY HARD INDEPENDENT INFORMATION THAT I CAN OFFER RIGHT NOW.

Q. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU ARE NOT ANSWERING WHAT I

ASKED YOU, WHICH IS THAT THERE ARE EYE WITNESS REPORTS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS AS WELL AS OTHERS THAT, IN FACT, ISRAELI PHANTOMS AND SKY HAWK HAVE ATTACKED REFUGEE CAMPS IN BEIRUT AS WELL AS OTHER PLACES.

A. TO BE VERY SPECIFIC, WE DO NOT HAVE SOLID INFORMATION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 067417

ON PRESS REPORTS OF DIVILIAN ATTACKS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. WE DO NOT HAVE IT.

Q. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TELL US WHAT IS THE SYRIAN MESSAGE WHTA WAS DELIVERED TO THE AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE?

A. NO.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SYRIA AND SPECIFICALLY HAS IT INDICATED IN ANY WAY TO SYRIA THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF APPROACHING THE LITANI RIVER?

A. LET ME SAY AGAIN I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO WHAT OUR PARTICULAR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE BEEN, BUT THE DEFENSE MINISTER RATHER EXPRESSLY SPOKE TO THE SYRIAN CONCERNS IN HIS PRESS CONVERENCE THIS MORNING AND THAT WASN'T FOR US TO SAY FOR THEM. HE SAID IF FOR HIMSELF.

Q. ARE YOU CONCERNED JUST ON THE BASIS OF WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT A POSSIBLE WIDENING OF THIS CONFLICT TO INVOLVE OTHERS, INCLUDING SYRIA?

A. WE OBVIOUSLY CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT NOTHING OF THE SORT WILL OCCUR. BEYOND THAT REALLY OUR CONCERNS ARE GENERAL.

Q. JUST TO FOLLOW THAT UP, HAVE YOU CONFIRMED ANY DIRECT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT?

A. NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 067417

Q. IN TERMS OF THE PEACEKEEPING FORCES.

A. NO.

Q. WE KNOW THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OVER ITS LAND AND TERRITORY.

WOULD THIS INVASION RIGHT NOW PROMPT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO FIND A QUICK SOLUTION FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE OTHER THAN LEBANON INSTEAD OF KEEPING INFLECTING LEBANON WITH TROUBLE ALL THE TIME?

A. I THINK WHAT I CAN SAY GENERALLY IS THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS ONLY UNDERSCORES WHAT WE FEEL WAS THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF FINDING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE ENTIRE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT INsofar AS THE LEBANESE CONCERNS ARE INVOLVED, AND THEY ARE VERY REAL, OUR POLICY HAS BEEN AND REMAINS TO SEEK SOLUTIONS WHICH PROMOTE THE INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF LEBANON AND EXTENDS THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING OBVIOUSLY THE TERRITORY NOW IN THE MIDST OF MILITARY ACTION.

BUT THE SPECIFIC QUESTION YOU ASKED ME SIMPLY GOES TO THE END OF A SOLUTION AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO THERE.

Q. IN OUTLINING WHAT A SETTLEMENT, A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT MIGHT LOOK LIKE, THE PRESIDENT HAS SUGGESTED IT SHOULD INCLUDE A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

DOES YOUR RESPONSE NOW MEAN THAT IF THE PALESTINIANS HAS A HOMELAND IN SOME FORM THAT ISRAEL WOULD THEN BE SECURE FROM PALESTINIAN RAIDS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 067417

A. OUR FEELING IS THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA WITHOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

THE ONE THING I AM NOT GOING TO STAND UP HERE AND TRY TO DO IS PREDICT FOR YOU THE ABSOLUTE OUTCOME OF ANY SET OF

CIRCUMSTANCES. WE SIMPLY FEEL THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HAVE PEACE WITHOUT SOME RESOLUTION. WE HAVE SUGGESTED OUR OWN OPINION THAT SOME FORM OF HOMELAND WOULD BE A USEFUL END TO EXPLORE. WE HAVE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW, THAT WHATEVER THE RESOLUTION OF THE ENTIRE SITUATION MAY BE, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES.

Q. NOW, YOU KNOW THE ISRAELIS HAVE RESISTED SO FAR THE CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE RECENT RAID AND THE COUNTERATTACK, ETCETERA,

THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE ISSUE OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, THEREBY POSSIBLY TAKING A STEP THAT WOULD PREVENT SUCH VIOLENCE IN THE FUTURE?

A. I AM NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEACE PROCESS ITSELF MUST NOT BE IMPEDED AND OUGHT TO GO FORWARD. I AM NOT OFFERING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WHO OUGHT TO BE MORE OR LESS FORTHCOMING OR RESERVED OR WHAT HAVE YOU.

Q. WELL, YOU DID MORE THAN THAT. YOU BROUGHT UP THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 067417

PALESTINIAN QUESTION. BUT I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE INTRODUCING THAT NOW IF YOU INDEED DIDN'T THINK THERE SHOULD BE MORE OF A SPEEDY RESOLUTION.

A. ACTUALLY I WAS TRYING TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, WHICH IS WHY I RAISED IT AT ALL. IT WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT INTERESTED ME IN THIS BRIEFING, BUT IT IS A RESTATEMENT OF POLICY.

Q. IN SPEAKING THIS MORNING ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS A THREAT TO ISRAEL, YOU SEEM TO BE AT LEAST EXPRESSING AN UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL'S REASONS FOR HITTING INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. BUT YOU SAID NOTHING ABOUT ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF SOUTHERN LEBANON.

I WONDER TO THE EXTENT THAT ISRAELI PLANES ARE ATTACKING AREAS NOT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WHICH ARE NOT OBVIOUSLY COVERED BY YOUR EARLIER REMARKS, IF THIS IS A DIFFERENT MATTER IN YOUR VIEW.

A. I WOULD HAVE TO SAY AGAIN FOR ME TO COMMENT ON A WHOLE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES IS NOT GOING TO BE WITHIN MY SPHERE AT THIS BRIEFING AT THIS TIME, FIRST, BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AND WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS IN LARGE PART OF LEARNING AS MUCH FROM YOU AS WE CAN FROM OUR OWN SOURCES. SECOND, BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE TO KNOW, OBVIOUSLY BEFORE I MAKE ANY COMMENT ON IT, THE CONTEXT IN WHICH ANY NUMBER OF EVENTS, INCLUDING THE ONES YOU JUST OUTLINED, MAY HAVE OCCURRED. I AM IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. ON THE PHYSICAL SIDE, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BUILDING AND IN THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP? IS THERE A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP CONVENED ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 16 STATE 067417

THIS? WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE SECRETARY'S ACTIVITY? WAS THERE ANY CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY LAST NIGHT AFTER AMBASSADOR DINITZ DELIVERED A MESSAGE OF HIS CONTACT WITH THE PREIDENT AND SO ON?

A. NO.

LAST NIGHT ONE ADDITIONAL OFFICER STAYED ON DUTY TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION. OBVIOUSLY IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN STUDYING AND FOLLOWING AND MONITORING EVENTS IN THE REGION HAVE ASSIGNED SUFFICIENT OFFICERS TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY SO THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE CAN BE KEPT WELL INFORMED AND TO DEAL WITH ANY CONTINGENCIES WHICH MAY ARISE.

BUT TO GET TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION I EXPECT, THERE IS NO CRISIS TASK FORCE, NO SPECIAL TASK FORCE SET UP.

Q. BASED ON WHAT YOU KNOW AND WITHOUT GETTING INTO QUESTIONS OF DURATION, DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FEEL THAT TODAY, LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THIS RESPONSE, THAT THE ISRAELI RESPONSE HAS BEEN AN EXERCISE OF LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE?

A. AGAIN, WHERE I AM GOING TO HAVE TO STAND ON THAT QUESTION IS ESSENTIALLY WHERE I STARTED THIS BRIEFING. WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO GO BEYOND THE OVERALL GENERAL STATEMENT THAT I HAVE MADE. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PASS JUDGMENT AT THIS POINT BEYOND THAT ON THE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND LEBANON GENERALLY. I AM GOING TO SAY THAT TO ANTICIPATE ANY QUESTION YOU UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 17 STATE 067417

MAY ASK "BUT WHAT ABOUT AN EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF SO AND SO".

Q. THERE IS A REPORT OUT OF LEBANON THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE ARAB PEACEKEEPING FORCES HAS ASKED SYRIA TO PROVIDE THE AIR DEFENSE AND THERE IS A DAMASCUS RADIO REPORT SAYING THAT THIS WAS GRANTED.

DO YOU KNOW THE EXTENT OF SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT THAT THIS PORTENDS? HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SYRIANS URGING THEM NOT TO GET INVOLVED OR WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION?

A. THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS NO, I DON'T

THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND QUESTION IS THAT I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE CONTENT AT THIS POINT OF ANY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS.

I WOULD SAY, HOWEVER, ON THAT QUESTION THAT YOU JUST RAISED THAT WHAT WE KNOW IS WHAT WE SEE FROM THE SAME REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE.

Q. YOU SAY THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, BUT IN LIGHT OF HAVING ABOUT 30,000 ISRAELI FORCES IN THE SOUTH OF LEBANON AND ATTACKS ON LEBANESE TOWNS PROPER NEAR BEIRUT, AND IN LIGHT OF YOUR PAST CONDEMNATION OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON BOTH SIDES, WHY DOESN'T THE U.S. DEPLORE THIS INVASION OF LEBANON?

A. LET ME NOTE THAT, AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME WITH LEBANON TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF ITS MILITARY FORCES SO THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT COULD EXTEND ITS OWN MILITARY CONTROL TO SOUTHERN LEBANON, A CONTROL WHICH A LEBANESE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 18 STATE 067417

SPOKESMAN HAS WITHIN THE LAST ENTY-FOUR HOURS NOTED DOES NOT PERTAIN TO SOUTHERN LEBANON AT THIS TIME.

I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE TO IN ANY WAY COME OFF OF WHAT I JUST GOT THROUGH SAYING. IT JUST REMAINS THE SAME.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US,BECAUSE LEBANON INDEED IS UNDER

ATTACK NOW, HAS LEBANON, PROBABLY THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR, APPEALED TO THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ANY PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION?

INDEED AREN'T YOU NOW IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH THE LEBANESE ABOUT WHAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT DO?

A. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY HAVING DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND OTHER PARTIES IN THE REGION. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SORT OF A RUNNING ACCOUNT OF WHAT EACH OF THE PARTIES ARE SUGGESTING WE MAY OR MAY NOT DO, THE UNITED STATES, OR POSSIBILITIES FOR A SOLUTION. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

A. AND THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS?

A. THEY HAVE OBVIOUSLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS TO US.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THERE ARE NO CHANGES WHATSOEVER IN THE PLANS FOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO COME HERE NEXT MONDAY.

ARE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, SIMPLY OPERATING ON AN ASSUMPTION OR HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD THIS BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 19 STATE 067417

HAVE YOU CHECKED, IN OTHER WORDS, THAT THIS IS STILL THEIR INTENT?

A. SPEAKING FOR US AND, YOU WILL HAVE TO SAY BY INDIRECTION FOR THE ISRAELIS THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN PLANS THAT I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT. OUR PLANNING CONTINUES ON THE BASIS THAT THEIR VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE.

THEN I WILL SAY THE OBVIOUS. THERE IS NO WAY FOR ME TO PREDICT WHAT EFFECT EVENTS MAY HAVE IN THE FUTURE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER SET OF POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THE VISIT.

Q. WHAT I AM ASKING IS, SINCE THE INVASION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED HAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER PRIME MINISTER BEGIN STILL PLANS TO COME ON SCHEDULE?

A. AGAIN I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO WHAT WE SAY SPECIFICALLY IN OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. I HAVE ANSWERED THE QUESTION, WHICH IS THAT THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN PLANS

AND THAT OUR PLANNING IS PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS THAT THE VISIT IS ON.

Q. DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE GOING TO BE, IN EFFECT, THIS HOLDING PATTERN IN TERMS OF ANSWERING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS COME HERE TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER?

A. I WOULD SAY I WILL PROBABLY ALWAYS BE ON A HOLDING PATTERN WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH OUR DIRECT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PARTIES IN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING NOW ABOUT THE DIRECTION THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 20 STATE 067417

ISRAELI TACTICS HAVE TAKEN AND, WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER YOU FEEL YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN A HOLDING PATTERN UNTIL AFTER BEGIN HAS COME HERE?

A. I THINK THAT INSOFAR AS MY ABILITY TO HANDLE SOME

QUESTIONS ARE CONCERNED, AT LEAST PART OF THE PROBLEM OTHER THAN THE DIPLOMATIC, IS THAT WE ARE NOT EVEN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS INTO THIS ENGAGEMENT AND I AM SIMPLY NOT EITHER OFFICIALLY PREPARED NOR WOULD I THINK I WOULD BE DOING MY DUTY, EVEN IF I THOUGHT I WAS PERSONALLY PREPARED, TO COME OUT HERE WITH A BUNCH OF QUICK ANALYSES OF WHAT ALL THIS MEANS. I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY FOR THAT.

Q. WOULD YOU AGREE THAT IF ISRAEL ACHIEVES ITS OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A TERRORIST-FREE STRIP ALONG ITS BORDER WITH LEBANON, 5 TO 7 MILES, THAT THAT WOULD ADD TO STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE?

A. AGAIN I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF A POSSIBLE RESULT. I SIMPLY AM IN NO POSITION TO SPECULATE AT THAT KIND OF LENGTH.

Q. IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SO MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF LEBANON AND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WOULD IT BE TIME TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ACCEPT THE PALESTINIAN PERMANENT HOMELAND?

A. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT GOING TO PRESSURE ANYBODY TO ACCEPT ANYTHING.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 21 STATE 067417

Q. BUT YOU WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON LEBANON.

A. WE ARE TRYING TO HELP BRING ABOUT A PROCESS WHICH WILL LEAD TO PEACE. NOW WHAT THE NET OF THAT WILL BE IS GOING TO BE UP TO THE PARTIES TO DECIDE.

Q. WILL YOU BE ABLE TO PUT OUT THE TEXT OF YOUR EARLIER STATEMENT AS TO WHAT YOU SAID, SO WE CAN HAVE A LOOK AT IT LATER ON IN THE DAY?

AND TWO, DO YOU EXPECT TO HAVE ANY FURTHER BRIEFING TODAY ON THIS?

A. NO.

Q. THREE, ARE THERE ANY AMERICAN ADVISORS IN THE FIGHTING ZONE OR IN AREAS WHERE SOME FIGHTING IS TAKING PLACE IN THE USUAL WAY OF -- PATTERN OF WATCHING WHAT HAPPENS IN A

WAR ZONE?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT LAST QUESTION.

Q. YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WELCOMED ISRAEL'S ASSURANCE THAT IT DID NOT INTEND TO HOLD, OR REMAIN IN SOUTH LEBANON. IS THERE A COROLLARY TO THAT -- WOULD YOU WELCOME THEIR DEPARTURE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE?

A. NO, AGAIN I AM JUST GOING TO HOLD JUST WHERE I AM ON THIS QUESTION.

Q. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU REPORTED ON THE DAY I WAS GONE, THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR DISCLAIMED THAT STATEMENT FROM RADIO RIYADH, PRAISING THE RAID ON THE BUS AS "HEROIC."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 22 STATE 067417

WHAT I WAS WONDERING IS THIS: DID THE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE TALKED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SAY THAT RADIO RIYADH WAS UNOFFICIAL ON THAT ONE STATEMENT, ALONE? OR ON ALL STATEMENTS, SUCH AS FEBRUARY 8, WHEN YOUR FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION REPORTED THAT THEY SAID (RADIO RIYADH): "THE STAND OF SAUDI LEADERS IS THIS: COMPLETE



BACKING WITH MONEY, WEAPONS, AND EVEN BLOOK FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. TIME HAS PROVED THAT DEALING WITH THIS ENEMY IS USELESS IN ANY FORM EXCEPT THE LANGUAGE HE WILL UNDERSTAND -- NAMELY, THE LANGUAGE OF THE BULLET AND THE MISSILE."

DID HE DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH ALL OF THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF RADIO RIYADH, OR NOT?

QA. THE QUESTION AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH A PARTICULAR BROADCAST.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH MONEY, HOW MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THE SAUDIS ARE GIVING TO THE PLO?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ACCURATE FIGURE ON THAT.

Q. YOU POSTED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA AND SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

THERE WAS A QUESTION: "HAVE WE EVER TALKED TO THE SAUDIS ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS?"

AND THE ANSWER WAS: "YES, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 23 STATE 067417

THE YEARS, INCLUDING QUITE RECENTLY."

I WONDERED IF YOU COULD GO ON FROM THERE AND TELL US IF THE UNITED STATES, IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS OR OTHERWISE, DISAPPROVED OF THE SAUDI SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

ALL YOU DO IS, YOU SAY YOU TALKED TO THEM ABOUT IT.

A. I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY THE LANGUAGE I AM AGAIN GOING TO HAVE TO STICK WITH, BECAUSE AS WE HAVE SAID THAT CLEARLY IS THE POSITION THEY HAVE TAKEN WITH US.

Q. I UNDERSTAND, BUT ON THE LARGER QUESTION OF FINANCIAL AID TO THE PALESTINIANS -- YOU HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH THEM AND YOU CAN'T SAY WHETHER THE UNITED STATES VOICED APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL -- OR TOOK NO POSITION?

DID THE UNITED STATES EXPRESS THE VIEW TO THE SAUDIS ON HOW THE UNITED STATES FEELS ABOUT SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS GENERALLY?

AND IF YOU WANT TO GO FURTHER THAN THAT: DOES THE

UNITED STATES HAVE A POSITION, AND DID THEY EXPRESS IT ON THE STATED POSITION OF THE SAUDIS THAT THE SUPPORT GOES FOR REFUGEES.

AND AS YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION YOU MIGHT KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SAUDIS SAY THEY DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN FUND THAT TAKES CARE OF PALESTINIAN CAMPS -- THAT THAT'S A WESTERN CONCERN.

A. I THINK YOUR QUESTIONS ARE CLEAR AND WHILE WE DODGE AROUND ON THEM I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN GET. I DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT A GOOD PART OF THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS ARE GOING TO BE MADE PUBLIC --

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 24 STATE 067417

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY FROM THE BBC FROM ISRAEL, SAYING THAT THERE IS AT LEAST UNDERSTANDING, IF NOT COLLUSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ON THIS OPERATION. COULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THIS?

A. I WOULD JUST DENY THAT.

Q. THE UNITED STATES, YOU SAID, IS CONTACTING A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA OF OUR CONCERN. ARE YOU CONTACTING PEOPLE IN THE PLO?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PLO.

Q. OR ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUPS?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE WE ARE NOT HAVING ANY CONTACT AT THIS POINT WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS --

Q. HAS AMBASSADOR LEWIS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RETURN TO ISRAEL?

A. I JUST SAW AMBASSADOR LEWIS IN THE HALL. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

Q. WOULD YOU CHECK THAT.

A. YES.

Q. HAS ISRAEL VIOLATED THE U.S. COMMITMENTS TOWARD LEBANON, OR NOT? YOU SAID REPEATEDLY THAT YOU SUPPORT AND ARE COMMITTED TO THE SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON. BUT NOW ISRAEL VIOLATED EVERYTHING THERE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 25 STATE 067417

A. WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ISRAEL ACTION IS AT THIS POINT THE MOST THAT I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY.

AND I HAVE GONE THROUGH A FAIRLY ELABORATE SET OF PHRASES WHICH BOTH SPEAK OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSIVE NEEDS AND ALSO OUR HOPES AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENTIRE AREA. AND I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STAND ON THAT.

Q. WELL, FOR THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, WOULD YOU MAKE OF LEBANON A BATTLEGROUND FOR EVERY FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO BATTLE IN THAT COUNTRY?

A. WHAT WE REALLY HOPE IS THAT NO PLACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE A BATTLEGROUND, AND THAT IS OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVE.

Q. I JUST WANT TO SEE, ON THE QUESTION OF TONE, WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING TO US SEEMS TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, THE U.S. HAS NO PARTICULAR QUARREL WITH WHAT ISRAEL HAS DONE.

DOES THIS REFLECT ACCURATELY WHAT YOU ARE SAYING DIPLOMATICALLY AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. LET ME START WITH THE PREMISE. I AM NOT SETTING A "TONE" OF AFFIRMATION OR NEGATION, OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT. I AM TELLING YOU THAT WE ARE WITHIN 24 HOURS

OF AN EVENT OCCURRING, AN EVENT ON WHICH WE HAVE TO DO A FAIR AMOUNT OF ANALYSIS AND STUDY.

WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR OVERALL POSITION, BOTH ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ISRAEL FEELS IT IS DOING -- I.E., ACTING IN A SELF-DEFENSIVE MODE -- AND OUR LONGER RANGE CONCERN, WHICH IS THAT WE HAVE BOTH PEACE AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 26 STATE 067417

STABILITY IN THE REGION.

I WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAVE FROM MY MOUTH, OR BY ANY KIND OF INFERENCE OR IMPLICATION, ANYTHING MORE JUDGMENTAL THAN THAT -- OR ANYTHING WHICH SEEMS TO GIVE ANY NUANCE OF APPROVAL OR REJECTION. I AM SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU THAT AT THIS TIME.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE ELEVEN TERRORISTS THAT SHOT UP THE BUS?

A. WE FEEL FAIRLY CONFIDENT OF THEIR ORIGIN.

Q. FROM WHICH COUNTRY?

A. THAT IT WAS SOMEWHERE IN LEBANON.

Q. MR. VANCE'S COMMENTS TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES, AND AS IN THE PAST, CONVEYING MESSAGES BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

AND SOMEONE DID ASK YOU ABOUT THE PLO AND YOU SAID YOU ARE NOT IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO.

SO THE TWO PARTIES HE IS TALKING ABOUT, BECAUSE HE USES THE WORD "BETWEEN" NOT "AMONG" -- THE TWO PARTIES ARE LEBANON AND ISRAEL?

A. YES, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT I DON'T NEED TO DANCE ON THAT SEMANTIC PIN.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PARTIES IN THE AREA. HE MEANT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 27 STATE 067417

THE PARTIES IN THE AREA, GENERALLY.

Q. SO HE DID NOT MEAN THE PLO.

A. ABSOLUTELY NOT. I REPEAT THAT.

BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO CONFINE IT JUST TO LEBANON AND ISRAEL.

Q. BUT I WANTED TO SEE IF THE PLO WAS EXCLUDED FROM THAT --

A. YES, I HAVE, AND I DO STILL.

Q. YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE NO INITIATIVES OR PROPOSALS TO BRING THIS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

A. WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY PLANNING SUCH.

Q. WOULD YOU OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE, IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE TO DO IT?

A. AGAIN, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF BRINGING STABILITY AND SECURITY TO SOUTHERN LEBANON IS ONE WHICH HAS DEEPLY CONCERNED US FOR A LONG TIME.

I AM NOT ABLE, NOW, TO PROJECT THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH THAT.

WHAT WE THINK THE LONG TERM SOLUTION SHOULD INVOLVE IS THE EXTENSION OF LEBANON'S OWN MILITARY FORCES DOWN TO THE BORDER AND CONTROL OF THE AREA.

BUT HOW WE GET THERE HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR US FOR A LONG TIME.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 28 STATE 067417

Q. YOU SEEM TO HAVE ANSWERED THAT IN THIS STATE OF UNCERTAINTY AND RAPIDLY MOVING EVENTS YOU WOULD, IN FACT, OPPOSE THE UNITED NATIONS BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

A. NO, I DID NOT SAY THAT AND I DON'T WANT TO SUGGEST THAT. AND AS A MATTER OF FACT I WOULD SIMPLY DENY THAT I AM IN A POSITION TO SUGGEST THAT WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY GIVEN INITIATIVE THAT WOULD BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO THAT AREA.

I AM TELLING YOU THAT WE DO NOT NOW HAVE UNDER WAY, SUCH AN INITIATIVE AND THAT WHILE WE HAVE HAD A CONVERSATION WITH MR. WALDHEIM, THE SECRETARY DID YESTERDAY EVENING, THAT THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO ON THAT SUBJECT RIGHT NOW.

Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF LEBANESE ON MILITARY CONTROL DOWN TO THE BORDER -- THERE SEEMS TO BE AN IMPLICATION IN WHAT THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER SAID -- THAT THIS IS THE RESULT THEY WANTED.

IN FACT, HE SAID, THEY WANTED THAT RESULT TOO.

BUT THE QUESTION ENTERS HERE OF THE TIME ELEMENT. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES TAKES AN ATTITUDE ON WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE INTERIM PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME THAT LEBANON MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXTEND ITS OWN MILITARY CONTROL? THAT IS, WOULD WE GET INTO THIS INDEFINITE DURATION QUESTION?

WOULD THE UNITED STATES SEE A REASON FOR, OR HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISRAELIS STAYING IN THE AREA UNTIL LEBANON IS READY?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 29 STATE 067417

A. IT'S TOO EARLY FOR ME TO SUGGEST ANYTHING OF THE SORT. I WOULD JUST SAY TO YOU AT THIS POINT: IT WOULD BE TOO EARLY FOR ME TO SUGGEST THERE IS SOME KIND OF HARD POSITION ON A SITUATION WHOSE FUTURE WE CANNOT NOW DISCERN.

Q. IS IT THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION, TODAY, TO INTRODUCE THE THREE MIDDLE EAST ARMS SALES LETTERS OF OFFER AS A SINGLE, UNBREAKABLE PACKAGE?

A. IT IS, AS OF THE LAST I HEARD, I KNOW OF NO CHANGE IN THAT.

Q. I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU WHETHER OR NOT WE SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION FOR THE ATTACK LAST SATURDAY?

A. WHAT I HAVE SAID IS THAT WE CONDEMN THOSE WHO DID IT.

EL FATAH SAID THAT THEY DID IT. WE CONDEMN THEM, ON THAT GROUND.

Q. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IS QUOTED TODAY AS SAYING THAT HE TOOK IT TO BE A FACT AND HE HAD INFORMATION FROM EGYPT THAT SADAT HAS GIVEN UP ANY HOPE OF HAVING HUSSEIN JOIN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS -- ASSUMING THERE ARE ANY AND THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT ON THE SINAI FRONT.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO CORROBORATE THIS?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. THERE WAS ANOTHER REPORT OUT OF ISRAEL YESTERDAY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 30 STATE 067417

THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED ONCE AGAIN THAT IT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT NEEDS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WEST BANK AS PART OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT. I THINK THIS WAS A STATEMENT IN THE KNESSET. HAVE YOU ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A. NO. YOU KNOW WHAT OUR POSITION IS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE ABOVE BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE.

Q. HAS AMBASSADOR LEWIS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RETURN TO ISRAEL?

A. NO. HE IS PLANNING TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL AFTER THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

Q. IN OUR TALKS WITH THE SAUDIS, DID WE EXPRESS TO THEM OUR VIEW ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL?

A. AS WE SAID ON MARCH 13, WE HAVE TALKED TO THE SAUDIS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. HAS THE U.S. GIVEN TO THE SAUDIS OUR OWN VIEWS ON THEIR POSITION THAT SAUDI SUPPORT GOES ONLY TO THE REFUGEES?

A. WE ACCEPT WHAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD US AS A GOOD FAITH STATEMENT OF THEIR POLICY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 31 STATE 067417

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE067417  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** REUNDELAND:RGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780116-0700  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780359/aaaabxwh.tel  
**Line Count:** 1229  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a9dda1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 23  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3303314  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 15  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a9dda1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014